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Application No. 09/726,032

Amendment dated June 26, 2003

Reply to Office Action of March 27, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended) A method for controlling odor associated with deposits of organic material which can cause odors on a soft surface ~~surfaces~~, the method comprising applying to the surface a composition comprising one or more adhering agents and a preparation of dormant bacteria, which when activated are effective to control odors, ~~the preparation of the dormant bacteria~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~dormant bacterial preparation~~ being allowed to become associated with <sup>the</sup> surface such that when the surface is subsequently exposed to organic material which can cause odors, the bacteria are capable of becoming active and digesting the organic material.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dormant bacteria are sporulated forms of one or more strains selected from the bacterial genera Bacillus.

a 3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dormant bacteria are sporulated forms of one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting essentially of Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus pasteurii, Bacillus laevolacticus and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the dormant bacteria are applied to the surface at a concentration of between about ~~10<sup>6</sup>~~ 10<sup>6</sup> and about ~~10<sup>8</sup>~~ 10<sup>8</sup> cells per square inch of the surface.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the dormant bacteria are applied to the ~~carpet~~ surface at a concentration of about ~~10<sup>7</sup>~~ 10<sup>7</sup> cells per square inch of the surface.

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6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the preparation of dormant bacteria ~~bacterial preparation~~ comprises:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% of total bacteria</u>
<u>Bacillus megaterium</u>	5-60
<u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>	10-40
<u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>	10-40
<u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u>	10-40

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the preparation of dormant bacteria ~~bacterial preparation~~ comprises:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% of total bacteria</u>
<u>Bacillus megaterium</u>	40
<u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>	20
<u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>	20
<u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u>	20

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the one or more adhering agents are one or more anti-soiling fluorochemicals or stain-blocking chemicals.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the one or more stain-blocking chemicals are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

10. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the one or more adhering agents are one or more anti-soiling fluorochemicals.

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bacterial preparation composition further includes one or more odor neutralizing or trapping agents selected from sodium bicarbonate and molecular sieves.

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12. (currently amended) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition for a soft surface surfaces to impart odor control to the surface, the composition comprising one or more adhering agents and an effective amount of dormant odor controlling bacteria.

13. (original) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 12 wherein the dormant bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial genera consisting of Bacillus, Enterobacter, Streptococcus, Nitrosomonas, Nitrobacter, Pseudomonas, Alcaligenes and Klebsiella.

14. (original) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 13 wherein the dormant bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting essentially of Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus pasteurii, Bacillus laevolacticus and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens.

a 15. (currently amended) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the dormant bacteria are for application to the surface at a concentration of between about ~~10<sup>6</sup>~~ 10<sup>6</sup> and about ~~10<sup>8</sup>~~ 10<sup>8</sup> cells per square inch of surface.

16. (currently amended) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the dormant bacteria ~~bacterial preparation~~ comprises:

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>% of total bacteria</u>
<u>Bacillus megaterium</u>		5-60
<u>Bacillus pasteurii</u> ✓		10-40
<u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u> ✓		10-40
<u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> ✓		10-40

17. (currently amended) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the dormant bacteria ~~bacterial preparation~~ comprises:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% of total bacteria</u>
<u>Bacillus megaterium</u> ✓	40

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<u>Bacillus pasteurii</u> ✓	20
<u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u> ✓	20
<u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> ✓	20

18. (original) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the one or more adhering agents are one or more stain-blocking chemicals selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

a 19. (currently amended) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim ~~22~~ 14 wherein the one or more adhering agents are one or more anti-soil fluorochemicals.

20. (original) An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the composition includes one or more odor neutralizing or trapping agents selected from sodium bicarbonate and molecular sieves.

21. - 32 (withdrawn).

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